



## Editorial

### Limerick

*The Chinese sages of old,  
Found biomedical applications for gold,  
Now with gold catalysis,  
And nanoanalysis,  
Many new applications unfold.*  
(Antony Cowey, Mintek, 2006)

Reader, yes you are correct – the poem above is a limerick. The GOLD 2006 conference was held from 3 to 6 September at Limerick, Ireland and the limerick encompasses the theme of the conference, namely to promote new industrial applications for gold. The conference was attended by 303 delegates who were enriched with oral and posters presentations on 345 abstracts covering the most recent research and developments of industrial uses for gold.

Although the increase in numbers for this conference, which succeeded Gold 2001 (Cape Town, South Africa – 80 attendees, 30 abstracts) and Gold 2003 (Vancouver, Canada – 204 attendees, 170 abstracts), are remarkable, the scope of research activities has widened and potential commercial applications are more distinct. In this edition of *Gold Bulletin*, you will have the opportunity to read some of the papers that were presented at GOLD 2006. We hope you will enjoy reading these papers and we look forward to see you in 3 years time at GOLD 2009\*.

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Project AuTEK, Mintek

*Editor's note:* Dr van der Lingen is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of *Gold Bulletin* and served on the Organising Committee of GOLD 2006.

\*The date and venue for GOLD 2009 will be announced early next year in this journal.

### Important note from the Editor

The Editorial Team of *Gold Bulletin* have been overwhelmed by the very high quality and extremely large number of GOLD 2006 conference-related submissions to the journal. To publish them all would take many issues of *Gold Bulletin* and, for many authors, such a long time to publication is unacceptable.

We are aware that authors seek a prompt decision from journal editors concerning the status of their manuscripts. In view of this, we have had no alternative but to introduce a temporary modified review policy for the journal, namely to include the category 'Reject without peer review' so that a realistic, more limited number of selected GOLD 2006 papers can proceed to the refereeing process without delay. Following an initial review by the Editorial board, we have had to make some difficult choices of which papers to accept for refereeing and possible publication within a reasonable timescale. For those unsuccessful authors, we can only apologise and hope that you understand the reasons for this decision.

As you will see, we commence publication of GOLD 2006 papers with this issue, and many more will follow in several issues next year in volume 40. Yes, 2007 is our 40th anniversary year. With the very high Impact Factor that *Gold Bulletin* currently enjoys (>5 according to the latest ISI reports), we are proud of the high esteem in which the journal is held and the success we have achieved over the last decade.

Let me, on behalf of the Editorial team, thank you for your support. We wish all of you, our readers and contributors, a happy and successful New Year.

Christopher Corti